Home Agent's Notes

By Mrs. B. G. Anderson

Appomattox Home Agent

Mrs. Mary L. Thompson, Extension Food Specialist, V. P. I., says that "Christmas Begins in the Kitchen but must be kept in the heart."

Last year in a small shop in one of our large cities, there appeared one September morning a fully-trimmed Christmas Tree. People passing by stopped in amazement, then they saw a small, crudely hand-painted sign which said, "My Christmas may seem early, but I wish I could have it twelve months of the year because it keeps the door to my heart open and I hope it does the same for you."

As the Christmas season approaches with its sparkle, gaiety, laughter, with our special celebrations; for family and friends, may each of us remember to open the door of his heart a little bit wider for the true Christmas spirit, the spirit of Christ to enter.

The home demonstration club leaders have done such an excellent job with their demonstrations that requests for recipes have just about exhausted the supply. Here are recipes the leaders have used this month.

1. Seven kinds of cookies. — one basic dough.

2 cups butter or margarine
3 cups sugar
4 eggs
1/4 cup milk
4 tsp. vanilla
5 cups sifted flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp, salt.

1. Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, stir in milk and vanilla.
2. Sift dry ingredients together and stir into mixture until well blended.
3. Divide dough. 1/2 to use "as is"; 1/4- specied; 1/4- chocolate. Chill the plain dough. Roll only part of it at a time. (Dough for rolled cookies should always be well chilled). Use these ways:

Scalloped Cookies: Roll part of the dough and cut. Trim with small colored candiese. Bake about 6 minutes.

Crescents: Add coconut to part of dough. Shape into 1¼" crescents. Chill. Bake 8 minutes. Ice and trim with tinted coconut.

Green-Striped: Roll out balance of dough; sprinkle with finely chopped nuts. Roll again and cut. Bake 7 minutes. Frost in stripes with green powdered sugar frosting.

Spiced Dough: Blend 1/4 tsp. of ground cloves and 1 tsp. ground cinnamon into the 1/4 of the basic dough for special cookies.

Frosted Spice Cookies: Chill half of the spiced dough. Roll and cut. Bake 7 minutes. Cool; frost.

Cherry Drops: To rest of spiced dough, add 20 glazed cherries quartered, and 1/2 cup coarsely cut nut meats. Drop by spoonfuls on cooky sheet, top with half of cherry. Bake 10 to 12 minutes.

Chocolate Dough: Just add 1/4 cup cocoa to the last 1/4 of the basic dough.

Pecan Crisps: To 1/2 of chocolate dough add 1/2 cup chopped pecans and 2 cups corn flakes. Drop by spoonfuls onto cooky sheet. Top each with pecan half. Bake about 10 minutes.

Date Wrap-Ups: Press dough around a pitted date. Bake 10 minutes. Cool; sprinkle with confectioners' sugar.

Note: Bake all cookies on cooky sheet in a hot oven (425 F.) to a light brown. Be careful not to burn them.

Frozen Coconut Snowballs: For each serving, put 2 scoops of vanilla ice cream together to form ball. Roll in moist, shredded coconut. Trim with a fresh holly sprig. (Make these ahead and place in your home freezer.)

Snow Men:

Make like snowballs; use two balls, make one smaller, put on top of the other and put on raisins for eyes and nose and a cherry for his mouth. Scatter moist coconut around to look like snow. Put an oblong sucker over his shoulder for a snow shovel.

Molasses Spice Crisp:

2½ cups flour — 2 tsp. ginger
2 tsp. soda — 1 cup sugar
2 tsp. cloves — 3/4 cup shortening
1 tsp. nutmeg — 1 egg, unbeaten
1 tsp. cinnamon — 4 tbsp. molasses

1. Measure flour after being sifted. Add soda and spices and sift three times.
2. Cream sugar and shortening until light. Add egg, beat thoroughly, add molasses and flour gradually mix well after each addition.
3. Chill dough and shape into balls size of hickory nut, dip in granulated sugar, place sugar side up on greased sheet and bake in moderate oven. Do not stack while hot or store until cool.

NIBBLES

6 oz. pkg. pretzel sticks
1 lb. (2 8-oz. cans) salted peanuts
1 pkg. crisp rice cereal
1 pkg. crisp oat cereal
1½ cups butter or margarine or fresh bacon fat
1 tsp. Tobasco sauce
1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
1 tbsp. garlic salt
1 tbsp. onion salt
1 tbsp. celery salt.

1. Start your oven at 225 F. or very slow.
2. Break the thin pretzel sticks into even smaller pieces and mix with dry cereals (the rice cereal looks like baby waffles; oat cereal like baby doughouts) in a large roasting pan.
3. Heat butter or margarine until melted and stir in Worcestershire sauce, garlic, onion, and celery salt. Pour over cereal mixture and mix thoroughly.
4. Cover and bake 1 hour. Remove cover, add peanuts and bake another hour, stirring occasionally. Makes 4 qts. of flavorful nibbles.

Applesauce-Nut Bread

2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
3/4 cup granulated sugar
3 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts
1 egg
1 cup canned applesauce
2 tbsp. melted shortening.

1. Sift together first 6 ingredients; add walnuts.
2. Beat egg, add applesauce and shortening, add flour mixture.
3. Stir until blended, pour into pan.
4. Bake 1 hour or until done in oven heated to 350 F.
5. Cool on rack.

Sugar Plum Lollipops

1/2 cup light corn syrup
1/2 cup confectioner's sugar
2 tbsp. dry skim milk and 2 tbsp. water (or 4 tbsp, fresh or canned milk)
1 tbsp. butter or margarine
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
4 cups semisweetened rice cereal.

1. Mix together all except cereal.
2. Boil 5 minutes stirring constantly.
3. Add cereal, form in 6 balls.
4. Garnish with red and gren drops.
5. Insert skewer sticks in each ball.
6. The mixture may be pressed in well-greased cake pan and cut in bars.

To Remove Fruit Juice Spots

To remove fruit juice spots from white cottons and linens, pour boiling water on the stain from a height of two or three feet. If the stain does not come out, use a household bleach and rinse well. On washable colored and fine fabrics, sponge with cool water. If this does not work, apply warm glycerine; let stand a few hours and rinse well.

To Remove Mildew Spots

To remove mildew spots wash white cottons and linens in hot suds, moisten with lemon juice and salt, and dry in the sun. If stain is old, bleach with household bleach rinse well. If stain is on washable colored or fine fabrics, use warm suds. No satisfactory method is known for non-washable material.

BOXELDER BUGS CONTINUE INVASION OF HOMES

Boxelder bugs are continuing invasion of homes in many parts of Virginia, reports Arthur Morris associate entomologist at VPI.

Strikingly marked, the red and black sucking insects do not actually damage buildings, food, fabrics, or people, but their presence can be unsetting, particularly if there are many of them and you don't know what they are.

Even if the insects are merely looking for a warm place to spend the winter, you probably don't want them around. If not: when they are found inside the house, the vacuum cleaner hose is an effective way to pick them up, or they may be swept up and disposed of. The fly swatter is good to kill an occasional insect. Household sprays are usually effective, but the fly swatter is quicker. Caulking of cracks through which the bugs enter is also advised.

Outside, when they are found clustered, they can be readily killed by applying kerosene or fuel oil with a hand sprayer, if plant injury is of no concern. Burning with a torch can be used in ... if handled carefully. ... detergent solutions will ... them. Probably the best control is to spray ... with one pound of actual ... in 100 gallons of water ... nymphs appear in large ... For small amounts of ... tablespoons of 50% ... der, or 2½ tablespoons ... wettable powder to one ... water. Adults are hard ... of, so considerable per... often necessary. A 50% ... spray may be applied to ... where they crawl. A water ... advised if plants are ne...

...inia Heritage Month' Set for Jan. 19-Feb. 22

...Va.- Even though you ...an who has seen a lot ... Dominion, you can't ...state as completely as ...ntil you've heard music ...t at "Gunston Hall," ...ive evening at "Strat... Lee's birth night, taken ...efield" on Washington's ... Williamsburg by lan... danced at a Confeder... Richmond, according to ... Travel Council.

...one of the hospitable ...ho never go sightseeing ...side out-of-state guests ...ve the fun of discover...joying your state for ...d now there's a whole month made to order for your pleasure—Virginia Heritage Month, January 19th to February 22, 1955.

From the birthday of Robert E. Lee to the anniversary of George Washington, what short space of time could hold more of the sparkle of history, whether balls or battles beaux or belles, banquets or birthdays? And Virginia's "at home" month will be an ideal time for a winter "break", with less cluttered highways, less tourist congestion and correspondingly lower rates and better choice of accomodations.

Alexandria will get a head start on January 16th with memorial services for General Lee in historic Christ Church, and all during the birthday week there will be a "Lee in Alexandria" exhibit in the Public Library, to be followed by a Washington display in February. On January 19, the United Daughters of the Confederacy will sponsor a Lee Walking Tour from their headquarters in Alexandria.

You will want to go down on the Northern Neck that evening to celebrate with a candlelit evening at "Stratford Hall," stately ancestral home of the Lees of Virginia. There will be no admission charge on that special occasion.

Costumed hostesses, eighteenth century chamber music and candlelight will make an enchanted place of "Gunston Hall," home of George Mason, who sired the "Bill of Rights," from 7:00 to 10:00 P. M. on February 18. No admission charge will be made on that evening to see this beautiful home, situated at Lorton, just off U. S. Route 1 or Shirley Highway. Nearby "Woodlawn Plantation" will be open without charge, with a display of Washingtonia, on February 19, from 10:00 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

Richmond, one-time capitol of the Confederacy, pays great homage to the heritage of Lee and Jackson with prayer, parade, and pageant on their day, January 19th. On the preceding Sunday there will be traditional memorial service at St. Paul's in the historic heart of the city. There will be open house at the Confederate Museum and Battle Abbey and a continuing display of Virginiana at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Few modern occasions can touch the glamor and pageantly of the annual Confederate Ball at the Hotel Jefferson—sponsored by the Stonewall Jackson Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy on January 21—with its fashion review of costumes, its Belle of the Ball, the color guard of the Richmond Blues in their Napoleonic uniforms, to which the public is invited.

There will also be a Confederate Ball, sponsored by the Lee, Richmond and Elliott Gray Chapters, U. D. C., at the Hotel John Marshall on January 14.

No tour of Richmond is complete without a visit to the romatic James River Plantations—Shirley, Berkeley, Westover, and Evelynton, situated in Charles City County on State Route 5. Open every day of the year, except Christmas, these lovely houses and gardens faithfully reflect the taste and affluence of the early Virginia statesmen and planters who owned them.

Beginning February 12th, focus will shift from Lee to Washington. Of course you will try to visit "Mount Vernon" in its lovely setting above the Potomac River, where a special exhibition "Early Views of Mount Vernon" will be featured.

Washington's own Pohick Church will have a candlelight tour. The Masonic Temple has planned a three-day Masonic program commemorating the birthday of Washington, and there will be a Washington Masonic memorial service at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria on Feb. 22.

On Washington's birthday, naturally, you will try to get down to "Wakefield," Washington's birthplace in Westmoreland County which will hold open house. Costumed hostesses will serve tea and gingerbread made from the personal recipe of Mary Ball Washington, on that festive occasion.

In Alexandria there will be a walking-camera tour held for visitors on February 12-13 and on Feb. 19-20 while lovely old Gadsby's Tavern will be open on those days from 10:00 A. M. until 4:00 P. M. Tea will be served by hostesses in traditional 18th century dress. The Gadsby's Birthday Ball, with orchestra and dancers in costume, will be the grand finale on February 22.

In Fdereicksburg that day emphasis will be on Mary Ball Washington, the first President's mother with memorial services at St. George's Episcopal Church, sponsored by the Washington-Lewis Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

A ball was once held for LaFayette in the old City Hall of Fredericksburg. In costumes of that period again this year the ball will take place—this time at Mary Washington College, preceded by a reception at the City Hall.

Over in the Valley of Virginia you can visit Stonewall Jackson's birthplace on his birthday, January 21. At New Market, a musical program of the Old South commemorating Jackson's birthday will be held at Endless Caverns, followed by cake and coffee. On February 20th, you can see a portion of the Caverns of Luray, made doubly fabulous by lantern and candlelight, providing a unique experience for cave enthusiasts.

You can be in Williamsburg for the distinguished Antiques Forum from Jan. 24 through Feb. 4, and the Democracy Workshop for Young People, from Feb. 18-20. Best of all you'll have a chance to go on excursions by lantern light to the craft shops each Wednesday night; to candlelight musicales at Bruton Parish Church on Tuesday and Saturday nights; and to see the Capitol by taper light on Saturdays.

You may think you know Virginia because you live here—but you'll know her much better after glimpsing her past of crinolines and candlelight.

ACCELERATED BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION PROGRAM

The national program against bovine brucelossis is bein accelerated to reduce the level of infection throughout the country and approach compelete eradication as rapidly as possible. The expanded drive is being made now because incidence of the disease, as shown among the cattle tested during the past year, has been reduced to the point where a concerted effort can wipe it out. Furthermore, growing support for the program has demonstrated that full cooperation in an accelerated campaign can be expected from the livestock owner other segments of the livestock industry, and related groups.

Brucellosis is the most serious widespread and expensive, disease of livestock in the United States. Its chief symptom is abortion, but it has many other debilitating effects. The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates that, based on 1953 cost and production figures, it is causing annual losses to the cattle industry of $58 million a year. The disease reduces milk output of infected animals by about 20 per cent, costing milk producers $35 million a year. Replacement of infected cows costs another $16 million. The disease reduces the calf crop of infected cows by 15 per cent, costing an addition -7 million.

The current program is an expansion of the Federal-State program which has been in operation since 1934. It is based on finding diseased animals by testing herds, and getting rid of reactors as quickly as possible, plus the use of proper sanitation and herd management. Vaccination of calves is used wherever necessary to build up immunity.

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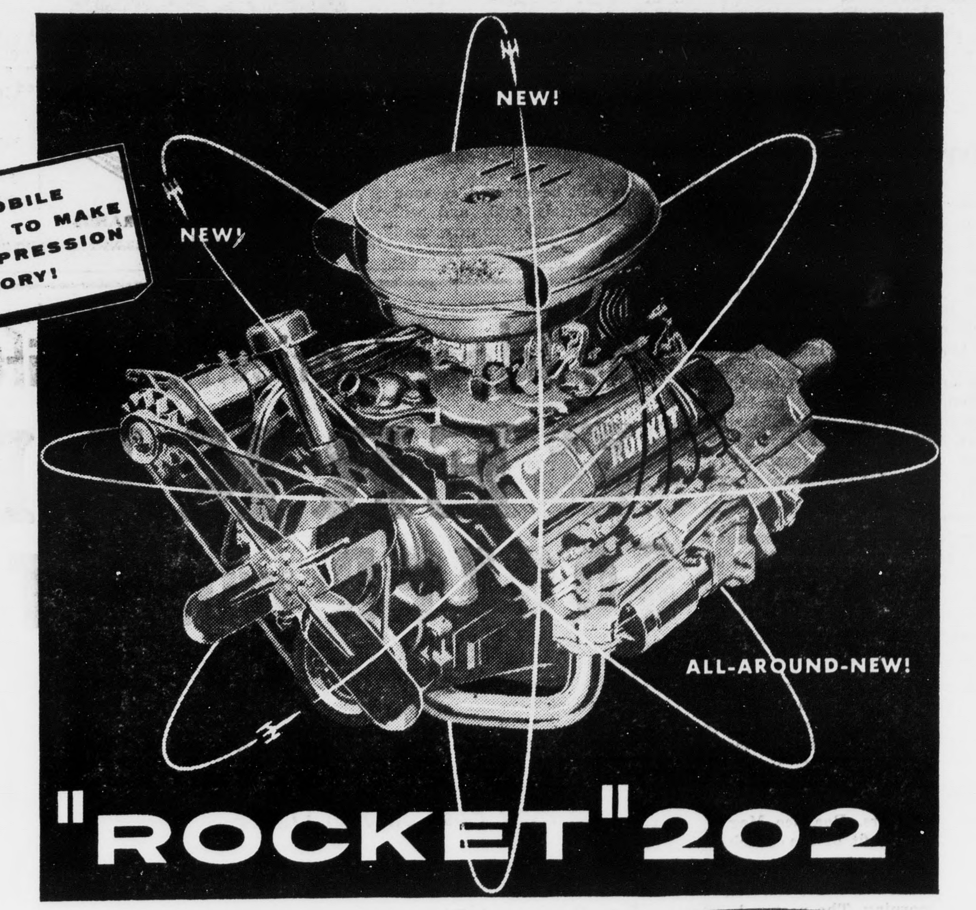

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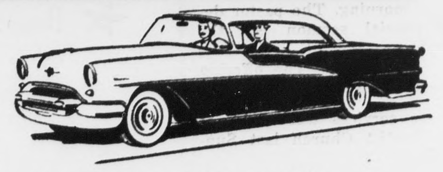

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